

*Binghamton, NY* -- Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and Congressman Richard Hanna (R-NY) are working to secure \$500 million in disaster relief funding for the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The EDA can provide substantial disaster recovery funding to the Broome County Industrial Development Agency (IDA), which is heavily engaged in the effort to help BAE find a new location for its Southern Tier operations. BAE's Westover plant, which is owned by the U.S. Air Force, but managed by the IDA, was devastated by recent floods. BAE is currently looking for a new location and any assistance that can be provided by IDA through EDA funds could help keep the company, and its well over 1,350 employees, in the region.

"From the very beginning, I urged House leaders to put forward a comprehensive disaster recovery bill," said Hinchey. "Unfortunately, that didn't happen and now federal agencies like the Economic Development Administration are running low on funds at exactly the time they are needed most. EDA can provide funding that would help keep BAE in our area, but that funding is limited by what Congress appropriates. We need to ensure that strong funding for EDA is provided in the budget for this upcoming year, because doing so could help keep over 1,300 jobs in our area. That's what Congressman Hanna and I are fighting for."

"Broome County, like much of the Southern Tier, was devastated by the recent storms and flooding," U.S. Rep. Richard Hanna said. "It is proper for the federal government to help those most affected in the wake of severe natural disasters. Sufficient disaster funding for the Economic Development Administration will help our employers and communities stabilize – and keep much needed, good-paying jobs in our area. This is vitally important and I am committed to working with Congressman Hinchey to see that this gets done."

Hinchey and Hanna wrote to the Republican and Democratic leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees who are working to strike a deal on funding for the Economic Development Agency for Fiscal Year 2012. The House did not include disaster relief funding for the EDA in their bill. The Senate approved an additional \$500 million for the Administration's disaster relief efforts. Hinchey and Hanna support the higher funding level put forward by the Senate. The full text of their [letter](#) follows.

November 10, 2011

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Vice Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Norman D. Dicks  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Inouye, Vice Chairman Cochran, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Member Dicks:

As you work to complete the Fiscal Year 2012 "minibus" legislation including the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill, we write to respectfully request that you include the disaster relief funding for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) provided in the Senate-approved bill.

Natural disasters over the course of the past months have ravaged the Southern Tier of New

York State, especially communities in Broome County. Many homes and businesses were destroyed and workers have been displaced. Sufficient disaster funding for the EDA will help major employers in our region get our constituents back to work as they continue recovering from Tropical Storm Lee and Hurricane Irene.

Thank you for your personal attention to this important matter. We look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,

Richard Hanna  
U.S. Representative

Maurice Hinchey  
U.S. Representative

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